

Africa - U.S. Higher Education Initiative



USAID AFRICA REGIONAL
HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT

Kigali, Rwanda

October 21-24, 2008

Our Vision



- Higher education institutions in Africa that
 - meet Africa's human resource needs
 - increase the development of relevant knowledge & technology
 - provide opportunities for historically disadvantaged populations
 - are engaged in development.
- U.S. higher education institutions more knowledgeable about African affairs and more deeply engaged in Africa.

Initiative Objectives



- Advocate to increase the level of U.S. investment in higher education partnerships in Africa.
- Increase awareness of the important role of higher education in development and the need for a long-term commitment.
- Develop mechanisms to share knowledge about building HEI capacity and better connect the African and U.S. higher education communities.
- Develop a well-funded competitive grants program to support long-term Africa-U.S. partnerships.

Consultations and Research



- Formation of an Advisory Committee
- Consultations with African ambassadors and people knowledgeable about African higher education
- Literature review
- Interviews with African Vice-Chancellors
- Post-Global Summit on Higher Education Africa Workshop
- Informal consultations in Africa
- 5-week electronic consultation: 763 forum members and growing... www.africa-initiative.org

Our Core Principles



Collaboration, partnership & shared ownership.

Need to align with African priorities.

Focus on development and problem solving.

Need for a long-term time frame.

Fields of Focus



- Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources
- Science & Technology
- Engineering
- Health
- Education & Teacher Training
- Business, Management & Economics

Capacity Building Priorities



- Faculty development
- Curriculum development
- Research and technology development – problem solving
- Leadership, management, marketing and advocacy
- Development of linkages with public, private, and civil society
- Financial diversification
- Improvement of teaching and research facilities and equipment

The Competitive Grants Program



- **Two Stages:**
 - Consultative planning grants
 - ✦ Important for the development of successful long-term collaboration.
 - Long term (10-15 year) implementation grants
 - ✦ Substantial funding annually per partnership.